

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026



*Since the creation of the world God's
invisible qualities have been clearly seen,
so that people are without excuse.*

Even though creation itself testifies to God's existence and goodness, instead of giving glory to the Creator, the sinful mind scorns him and idolizes his gifts. Both the cause and the effect of this is an abundance of evil.

God's people wonder why he isn't doing anything about it. Today's Scripture readings provide us with answers: 1) God is dealing with the godlessness and wickedness of people—even now; 2) God will ultimately deal with it on Judgment Day.

Hymn #491

Come, You Thankful People, Come

The hymn recounts today's Gospel, Jesus' parable about the wheat and the weeds. Just as God sees to our temporal needs through the harvest of the fields, so he will also see us through to the Last Day, when he gathers his people in, "free from sorrow, free from sin."

Please stand for the last verse.



1 Come, you thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home,
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har-vest home;



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and weeds to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way,
gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, shall pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast,
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come with all your an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

In the name of the Father and ✠ of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let
us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



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Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis



peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

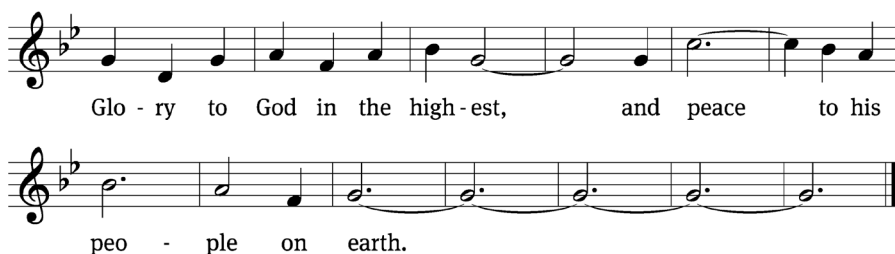
peo - ple on earth. For you a -

lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.



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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with you in perfect joy hereafter; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 44:6-11

There is only one true God. He is independent of everything. Tragically, so many worship the products of their own hands. What they worship is worthless.

⁶ “This is what the LORD says—

Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty:
I am the first and I am the last;
apart from me there is no God.

⁷ Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and lay out before me
what has happened since I established my ancient people,
and what is yet to come—
yes, let them foretell what will come.

- ⁸ Do not tremble, do not be afraid.
 Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?
 You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me?
 No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”
- ⁹ All who make idols are nothing,
 and the things they treasure are worthless.
 Those who would speak up for them are blind;
 they are ignorant, to their own shame.
- ¹⁰ Who shapes a god and casts an idol,
 which can profit nothing?
- ¹¹ People who do that will be put to shame;
 such craftsmen are only human beings.
 Let them all come together and take their stand;
 they will be brought down to terror and shame.

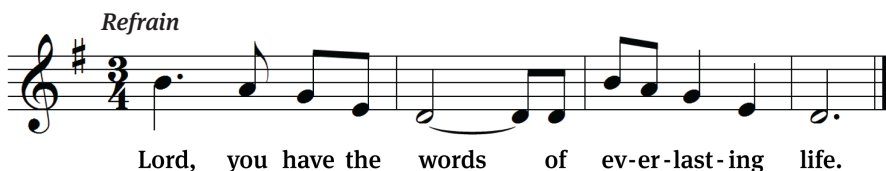
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

Lord, You Have the Words

An ensemble introduces the refrain. The congregation repeats the refrain immediately and again as indicated.



The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul; the Lord's rule is to be trusted, the simple find wisdom. *Refrain*

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding forever; the decrees of the Lord are true, all of them just. *Refrain*

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart, the command of the Lord is clear, giving light to the eye. *Refrain*

They are worth more than gold, than the finest gold, sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. *Refrain*

Second Reading

Romans 1:18-25

In their wickedness, people suppress the obvious truth about God. The wrath of God against them is already being revealed.

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Romans 11:33

The congregation sings the refrain before and after the verse.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

Refrain

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Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus teaches God's role and our role in dealing with evil in the world—and his ultimate solution for which we wait.

²⁴Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷“The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

²⁸“ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

²⁹“‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

³⁶Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴²They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn #863

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield
 2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one
 de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain



that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
 whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
 they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
 with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take



e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
 prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
 they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,



deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
 the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;
 he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
 though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won;



on earth is not his e - qual.
 he holds the field for - ev - er.
 one lit - tle word can fell him.
 the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite Tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546

God's wrath against wickedness serves the revelation of his righteousness

After the sermon, please stand for the creed.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Living Hope is transitioning to a new giving platform. Online offerings may now be given at bit.ly/LHgive.

Offerings are one way that our members support our gospel ministry. Visitors should feel no obligation to contribute.



Offering Prayer

LORD Almighty, you are the creator and giver of all that is good. We thank you for all treasures earthly and heavenly that you have given us. Keep us from idolizing what cannot save. Use our stewardship of your gifts as a testimony that we place our trust in you and that we share your desire for the salvation of all.

Amen.

The Sacrament

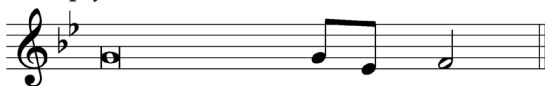
Please stand

The Lord be with you.



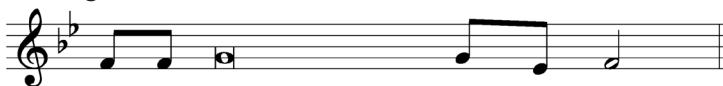
And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
san - na in the high - est!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

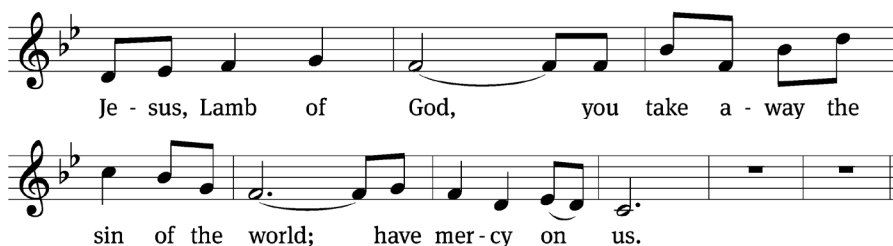
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

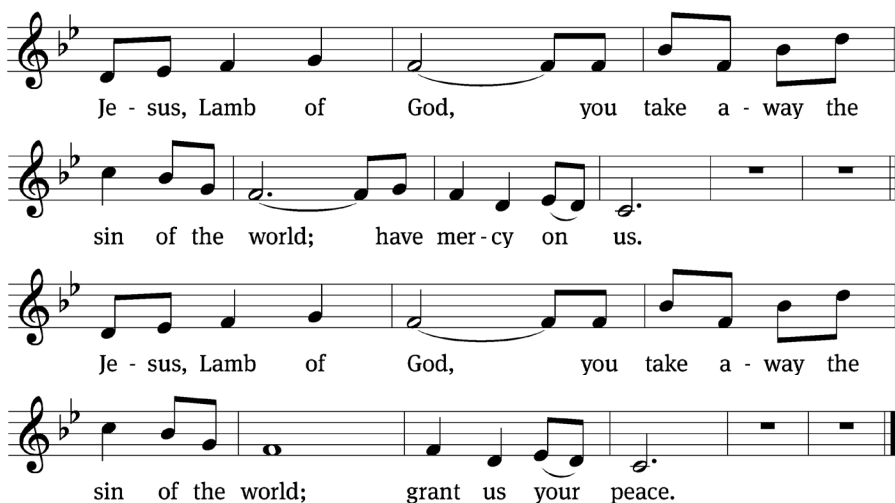
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei





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Please be seated

Distribution

A personal preparation for Holy Communion is on page 19.

In order to foster spiritual unity (1 Corinthians 10:17) and guard against spiritual harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), Living Hope follows the historic Christian practice of Close Communion. Confirmed members of Living Hope and those in fellowship with our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod are invited to celebrate the Lord's Supper with us.

We ask that visitors speak with one of the pastors or ushers before joining us at the altar.

Hymn #676

Take and Eat

The congregation sings the hymn during the distribution.

Refrain



Take and eat, take and eat, this is my bod - y



giv - en up for you. Take and drink, take and drink,



this is my blood giv - en up for you.



1 I am the Word that spoke and light was made;

2 I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;

3 I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;

4 I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid;



I am the seed that died to be re - born;

I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;

I am the gate that guards you night and day;

a cho - sen stone and pre - cious in his eyes;



I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;

I am the life that rais - es up the dead;

you are my flock: you know the shep-herd's voice;

You are God's dwell - ing - place, on me you rest;



Refrain

I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.

I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.

you are my own: your ran - som is my blood.

like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.

5 I am the light that came into the world;
I am the light that darkness cannot hide;
I am the Morning Star that never sets;
lift up your face, in you my light will shine.

Refrain

6 I am the first and last, the Living One;
I am the Lord who died that you might live;
I am the bridegroom, this my wedding song;
you are my bride, come to the marriage feast.

Refrain

Text (sts. 1–6): James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010; (Refv): Michael Joncas, b. 1951 Tune: Michael Joncas, b. 1951

Text (sts. 1–6): © 1969 James Quinn, SJ, admin. OCP Publications; (Ref): © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc.

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Following the distribution, please stand.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor ✠ and give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn #605

From All That Dwell below the Skies



1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let the Cre -
2 E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal

a - tor's praise a - rise. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
truth at - tends your Word. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung through ev - 'ry
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall

land, by ev - 'ry tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
rise and set no more. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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Preparation for Holy Communion

What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.

What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?

When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.

What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.

How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

I have his own words spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

I will daily thank and praise him for his love for me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

Serving in worship today & next Sunday

Musicians

Morris Hayes
Alex Rathje

Ushers

Josh Clark & Greg Six
Wyatt Saur & Brian Lacey

Acolyte

Ella Lacey
Lauren Nawrocki

Church Cleaning

Rathje
Clarke/Austin

After-worship Snacks

Women of Hope
still needed

Livestream

Lacey
Saur

Offering Caretakers

Donna Bosma & Morris Hayes
Beverley Henley & Barbara Byrd

Mowing

John Pahl
Pastor Lindemann & Scott Swoboda

Service Folders

Kathryn Haddon
Kristine Gill

Assisted-living Leader

Livestreamed
Ken Dunaway

Please join us for refreshments after the service. We would love to get to know you better!

To our guests: Thank you for worshiping with us! We would appreciate the opportunity to connect with you. Please share your contact information with us by scanning the code with your phone or speaking with an usher in the back.



3903 Old Hundred Rd S
Midlothian, Virginia
LivingHopeWELS.com

God has given us new birth into a *Living Hope*.

- 1 Peter 1:3

Pastor Alex Lindemann
pastorlindemann@livinghopewels.com
cell: 507-429-8008

Pastor Michael Seifert
pastorseifert@livinghopewels.com
cell: 804-239-5206